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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Mark Twain, Bismarck, the Tsar of Russia, Ibn Saud, General Eisenhower, Charles de Gaulle, Ted Miller from Kansas City, Frederic the Great and the Hunchback - what do they all have in common? They and many others visited the spas and health resorts of Germany. From the year dot onwards through the present and especially in the

future, Germany is the country of thermal baths, springs, healthy climates, world famous spas. From the seaside to the forests of Southern Germany there are more than 300 of them. They are traditional and modern at the same time. Take Wildbad in the Black Forest with its ultra-modern thermal baths or Wiesbaden with

the Royal Pump Room, or Baden with the elegant casino, but we mustn't forget Bad Homburg and the Imperial Palace in Aachen which has the warmest springs in Central Europe. Brochures on Germany the Country and its many natural treatments are available.

Genscher in Gulf and Middle East

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher visited Pakistan not only for talks with the opposite number in Islamabad but to chair a conference of 13 German ambassadors in the strife-torn Persian Gulf region, where his state secretary, Günter von Weizsäcker, had been sounding out the possibility of cooperation between Germany and the Gulf.

The official reason for Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit to Islamabad was a routine conference of the 13 German ambassadors in the Persian Gulf area.

The fact of the matter was that Pakistan has come to play what is very much a crucial role in view of volatile developments in the Persian Gulf region.

Events in the area have been in a state of flux ever since the Soviet invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan and the war between Iraq and neighbouring Iran.

Islamabad was carefully chosen as the venue for the conference of ambassadors.

IN THIS ISSUE

WORLD AFFAIRS Page 2
Diplomatic main item on the agenda of Herr Genscher's talks in Stockholm

TALKING POINTS Page 4
Werner Maser debunks once and for all the legend of Hitler the great Führer

AGRICULTURE Page 6
Ministry report forecasts 12-per-cent decline in farm earnings this year

THE STAGE Page 10
Spectacular new Alde in Frankfurt

HEALTH Page 12
New rheumatism drug may halt the progress of tissue decay, specialists claim

enable Herr Genscher to discuss the crucial role of the Gulf states with President Zia ul Haq and his foreign affairs adviser, Agha Shahi.

The Gulf states would not only like to achieve a closer degree of regional cooperation but also to establish cooperative relations with Europe.

Herr Genscher would be happy to add relations on the pattern established in ties between the European Community and the Asian countries.

Economic issues are naturally at stake but in foreign policy terms the main purpose of his mission was the political role of the Gulf region and to stabilise it.

Natural economic ties will probably have been more the brief of Foreign Minister's state secretary Günter von Weizsäcker, who was already in the area, first visiting Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

As Bonn saw it the timing of Herr Genscher's visit was just right, coming as it did in the wake of the New Delhi conference of non-aligned countries, the inauguration of President Reagan and prior to the CPSU party conference in Moscow, which was scheduled for March.

Agha Shahi offered to brief the 10 European Community countries on his government's policy towards Afghanistan, so Herr Genscher was partly representing the EEC in Islamabad.

He will have been pleased to feel that ties between Bonn and Islamabad are fine. He and Chancellor Schmidt have recently held talks with leading Pakistani politicians on several occasions.

Cordial ties between Bonn and Pakistan as a key to closer political and economic ties between Europe and the Middle East are based on Pakistan being next door to India.

This has always obliged Bonn to pursue balanced development aid policies and Germany is indeed Pakistan's major aid donor.

Since Bonn first embarked on development aid Pakistan has received DM1.9bn in capital aid or aid promised, DM150m in technical assistance and nearly DM54m in food aid.

Then there is Bonn's aid to the 1.4m Afghan refugees in Pakistan, which has so far totalled DM26m.

Herr Genscher flew home via Cairo,



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) called on his Pakistani opposite number Agha Shahi at the Foreign Office in Islamabad on 16 February. Herr Genscher was in the Pakistani capital to confer with German ambassadors in the Persian Gulf region and was keen to hear Pakistan's views on the area. (Photo: dpa)

Belgrade and Bonn

In the chequered career of ties between Bonn and Belgrade both sides can currently claim to have reached a climax again. The visit to Bonn by Yugoslav Premier Veselin Djuranovic seems to have been to their entire mutual satisfaction.

But current cordiality calls for a reminder that relations have occasionally been fraught with discord in the past.

In 1957, for instance, Bonn broke off diplomatic ties with Yugoslavia because Belgrade had granted the GDR full recognition.

In 1968, when ties were restored, developments between the two countries were fairly encouraging, yet 10 years later the Yugoslav authorities still saw fit to set free four Germans suspected of being urban guerrillas.

Bonn's view of Yugoslavia was promptly reappraised, but the visit now paid by the able Yugoslav Premier will have helped to set matters right.

Admittedly, he is not constitutionally empowered to make the foreign policy decisions the Bonn Chancellor, say, is.

His views first have to go through the mill of collective leadership and self-administration bureaucracy before being endorsed and put into practice.

But the Belgrade newspapers are currently full of articles stressing mutual confidence, although this in itself is nothing out of the ordinary when Yugoslav leaders travel or receive visitors.

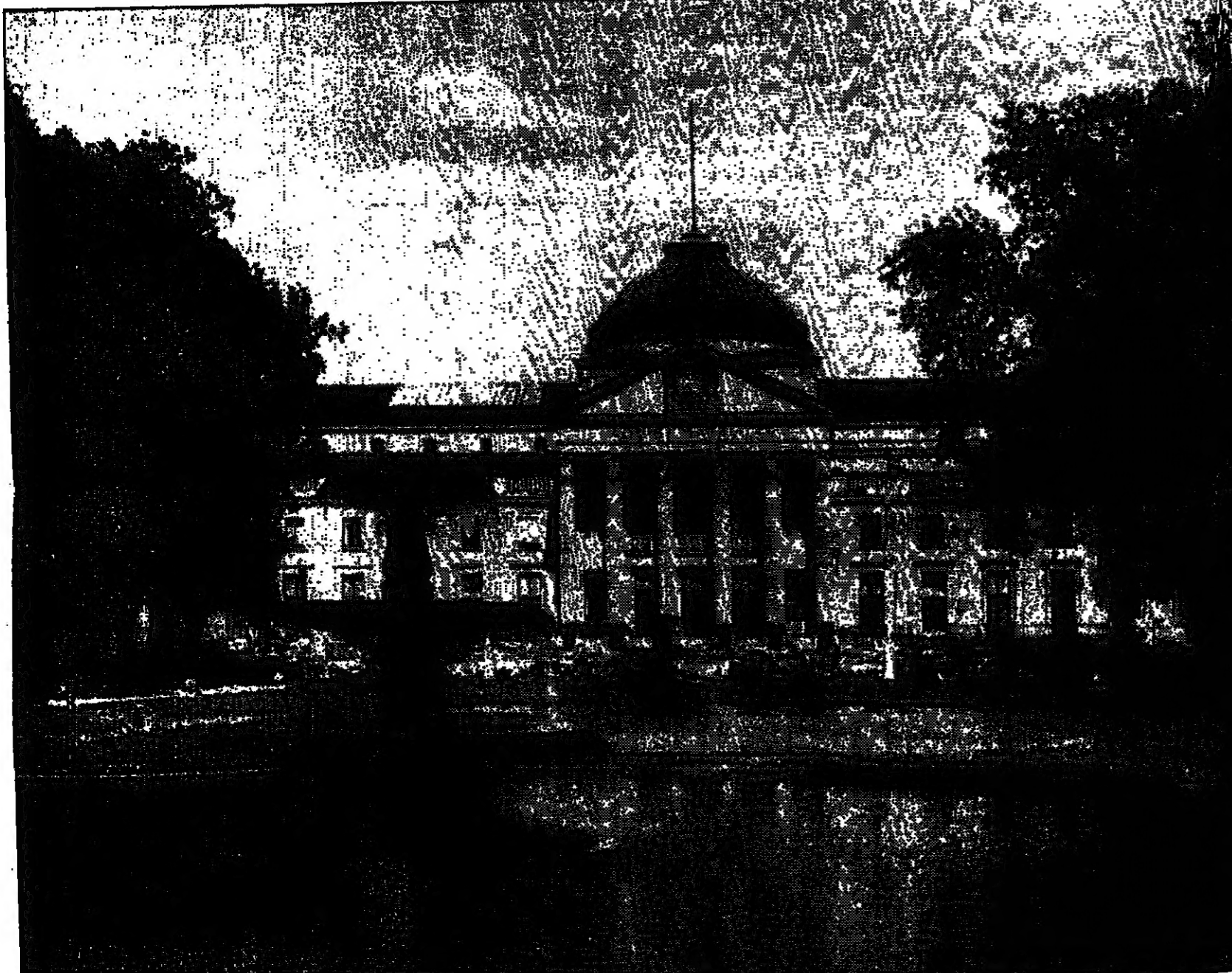
There are subtle differences nonetheless. When Foreign Minister Vrhovec visited the GDR recently the tenor of comments in the Belgrade Press was much more reserved.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 February 1981)



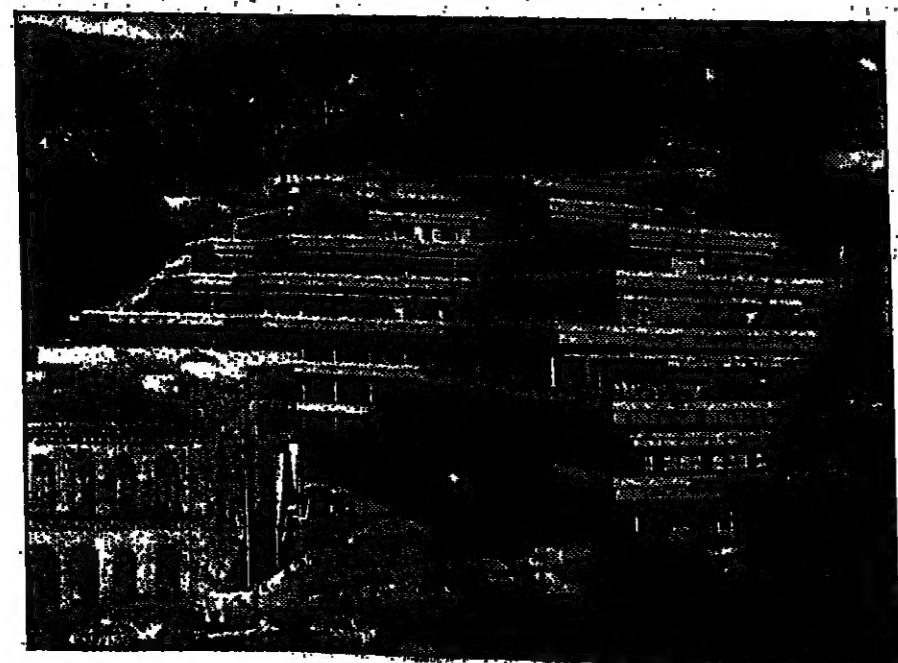
Kyprianou in Bonn

The Cyprus head of state Spyros Kyprianou (left) was welcomed to Bonn by Federal President Karl Carstens (right) with full military honours on 13 February. After conferring with Professor Carstens he had a working lunch with Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher. President Kyprianou was in Bonn to brief the German government on latest developments in his country. The Cyprus government hopes Germany might be able to bring influence to bear on Ankara to help bring about a solution to the problems of the partitioned Mediterranean island. (Photo: dpa)



Wiesbaden

Wildbad



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Beethovenstrasse 88, D-8000 Frankfurt

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TALKING POINTS

Werner Maser debunks once and for all the legend of Hitler the great Führer

Students of Adolf Hitler's character and behaviour know he was a man of many contradictions. Often he would act suddenly and impulsively, only to lapse into periods of sullenness and withdrawal, interrupted by occasional discourses on future aims and "irrevocable decisions."

In public his image was very different. He would stand for hours on end in uniform and jackboots, his right arm outstretched, as Wehrmacht units and Nazi party formations marched past — an astonishing feat of physical endurance.

All this made Hitler seem highly enigmatic. Werner Maser, author of *Adolf Hitler — The End of the Führer Legend*, now claims to have solved the riddle. It is an extremely confident claim, but Maser is not a man to make claims he cannot back up.

He has already established a reputation both in the academic world and among the general reading public for books on Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, the early history of the Nazi party, a documentary study of Hitler and a remorseless analysis of the Nuremberg trials.

All this work could be regarded as the necessary preliminaries for a major study of the man himself, his personality and his style of leadership.

This is more than just yet another book about Hitler. It is a kind of X-ray picture of the whole phenomenon.

Maser turns the normal chronological order upside down and makes this book begin with Hitler as Führer, Reichkanzler and Supreme Commander of the

Wehrmacht, as he was from 1933 to 1945.

Part II of the book analyses Hitler's youth and earlier career. So did Hitler change after coming to power in 1933? Maser says that he did not.

He quotes a diary entry by Goebbels in 1945 complaining that the Führer seemed to be living with his head in the clouds. To which Maser adds the comment that Hitler had always had his head in the clouds.

How could a man such as Hitler, who hated regular working hours, become a myth in his own lifetime for the German nation?

Hitler saw himself at first as the instrument for achieving national rebirth and greatness. His gifts as a speaker were phenomenal, his persuasiveness diabolical, his propaganda extremely subtle.

He called himself Führer and his closest colleagues, headed by Goebbels, forced him increasingly into this role. And, of course, he was operating in a vacuum.

The traditional pillars of German society had been completely disintegrated since 1918. The huge army of unemployed were on the verge of despair.

Werner Maser: *Adolf Hitler. Das Ende der Führer-Legende*. Econ Verlag, Düsseldorf/Vienna, 448 pages, DM 36.

Facts speak for themselves on the German Question

Karin Schmid's book on legal aspects of the German Question, the fruit of many years teaching the subject, is aimed primarily at teachers in the sixth forms of grammar schools.

Frau Schmid presents no theories of her own, restricting herself to describing the theory and practice of intra-German politics since 1945.

More than half the book consists of exhaustive documentation, in which all major statements on the subject are included. This is supplemented by a bibliography.

Frau Schmid makes the extraordinarily complex problem of the German Question more accessible by giving a summary of the relation of this question to international law.

The difficult subject of Berlin and the former Eastern territories of the German Reich is dealt with only marginally.

Frau Schmid, quite correctly, points out the need for detailed separate studies of these questions, which go beyond her work's frame of reference.

Her analysis sticks to a number of separate aspects: the legal status of the border between the two German states, the unity of the nation, questions of nationality, the continued existence of the German Reich as a retrospective legal entity and the resultant questions of reparations and of partnership in treaties.

In her analysis, Frau Schmid always attempts to show the relevance of these abstract legal theories.

She defends the West German theory that the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic are both parts of the German Reich, which did not lapse in 1945 but continued to exist, though not as a legal entity capable of action.

The definition of this German Reich, and its borders is dependent on numerous subjective factors, as Federal Constitutional Court decisions have shown.

Opponents of the new Ostpolitik hold the view that the Federal Republic of Germany is identical with the German Reich, which continues to exist as a legal entity.

The East Germans have a completely different theory, which says that the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic are two completely different states on the territory of the German Reich, which ceased to exist in 1945.

The Western Allies continue to claim responsibility for Germany as a whole. This should not be a merely verbal claim but should be combined with practical action.

These together form the present legal situation on which the government of

Hitler did not meet anyone who was a match for him until the war, not even in the party.

The solution for the party was not a nebulous form of National Socialism, an ideology which was never really worked out. Adolf Hitler was the Nazi party programme.

He was a visionary, a prophet, a man capable of imbuing the masses with a new faith. But was he also a great statesman or a great military commander?

Not at all, Maser shows, using case studies in certain areas to explain Hitler's style of leadership. He shows that there was no consistent line in Hitler's policies, that he feared responsibility.

Hitler was not interested in reforming the Weimar constitution. He abolished the basic rights which it guaranteed but left the rest as a torso.

Reform of the Reich was equally eclectic and incomplete. The Reich Cabinet was never a unit, merely the sum of the Ministries.

And individual Ministers often found it difficult to get Hitler to sign legislation they had drafted, such was his fear of responsibility.

Hitler was a man of sudden visions, not a decisive, coolly planning statesman such as soldiers admire. His secret was his unpredictability.

Maser quotes two instances of state criminality, the euthanasia programme and the final solution of the Jewish problem, in which Hitler gave the orders but left their execution to others.

It was as if he was shoving the re-

sponsibility away from him on to somebody else. The Führer did not want to hear about the details.

Maser shows that this style of leadership made the issuing of orders for the final solution an impossible task.

The decision to eliminate all German-occupied countries came from a secret conversation with Hitler, SS Reichsführer.

With strict instructions to Himmler was assigned the task of implementing the final solution.

Hitler thereby sought to speak with the hands of the horror of the act. He wanted to hear no more about it.

But he knew perfectly well what was doing, as his answer to Field Marshal Keitel proves. Keitel had asked about rumours about the mass shootings.

Hitler told him his had nothing to do with the Wehrmacht and he did not want to involve it in the mass murdering admission!

The idea that Hitler was for a time completely ignorant of the final solution is naive. Himmler would have dreamt at that time, November 1941, of starting such a major project without the Führer's knowledge.

Maser paints a picture of a man who had dreamt of being a Bohemian, who had always hated regular work, who was therefore incapable of doing any work permits for the first year of his stay in Germany.

Historical circumstances and moral which the former ruling elite was used to, brought him to the point where he, well, of course, as his remarkable swaying the masses and influencing the course of history.

Maser's approach and conclusion are new and persuasive. His book is a controversy, especially among those who have attempted to whitewash Hitler. Such people do exist! *Walter* (Die Welt, 7 February 1981)

(Die Welt, 7 February 1981)

HOME AFFAIRS

Asylum law amendment makes mockery of constitutional right, judges warn

Second-rate legal safeguards for applicants for political asylum are planned by the West German authorities, administrative court judges claim.

They should know. They are the judges who handle asylum applications and they are critical of the draft amendment of asylum procedures on which the *Bundesrat* agreed at the end of last year in the Bonn Bundestag.

Constitutional lawyers are critical of the proposed changes too, coming so soon after sweeping amendments to the asylum practice barely six months ago.

"Second-class safeguards" seems at first glance to be an exaggerated allegation, but on closer scrutiny it might well be said not sweeping enough.

Last summer the Bundestag passed a Second Asylum Procedure Amendment Act. The aim was to accelerate the processing of asylum applications, and this would appear to have done.

Since mid-1980 the number of applications for asylum has declined rapidly, probably because visas were made obligatory for people from most of the countries from which applicants hailed.

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Local authorities are to hold special, high-speed proceedings to make short shift of applications that are "obviously unwarranted or a breach of the law."

The right of appeal is no longer to be automatic; it will only apply if allowed in the first court ruling.

At the first hearing sentence is to be passed by a single judge rather than a panel.

The last two points would be an unprecedented inroad into the system of administrative court practice over the past decades.

Arguably, of course, single judges may be the shape of things to come in administrative jurisdiction much as they already are in civil proceedings, but the panel system has nonetheless proved most satisfactory.

Scepticism is, however, justified when plans are drawn up to depart from the current and established practice in cases of political asylum in particular.

In practice, applicants for asylum have difficulty in making themselves understood, especially as they are confronted by a totally alien social and legal system.

In many cases criteria that count in

their favour only come to light as the proceedings take their course, administrative court judges say.

Facts mentioned to lawyers and aliens departments often turn out to be more or less coincidental pieces in a mosaic that may not be put together until the appeal is heard.

The problem with the accelerated proceedings now proposed is that applicants with neither clearly political motives nor the ability to explain their reasons may be unfairly ruled out.

The Bundestag envisages, for instance, that a single civil servant will be entitled to decide whether or not an application is in breach of the law.

His decision may be upheld or quashed by a single judge who, moreover, has the right to rule that an appeal to a higher court is impermissible.

This is all to take place without a background of reliable administrative investigation of the applicant's motives as still prevails at the central refugees department in Zimndorf, near Nuremberg.

MPs will have to decide whether such swift and drastic proceedings are warranted as a means of deciding a re-

ference as a red herring.

The telecom network is a combined system consisting of underground cables and radio links that establishes a countrywide counterpart to the autobahn network, as it were.

Calls are automatically routed along the shortest available line. If there is a holdup anywhere along the line it will be redirected in much the same way as a traffic diversion.

Radio links as a rule require relay stations every 25km or so, but there are no booster stations in the GDR between West Berlin and the three transmitters in Lower Saxony at Torfhaus, Clenze and Gartow.

The Bundestag covers the 150km by transmitting in the long-wave megahertz range from the old transmitter at Wannsee, West Berlin, and in the gigahertz range from a new tower 300 metres tall in the north of the city.

The megahertz range, a little above TV frequencies, is not only easy to tap than higher frequencies; Berliners may even inadvertently tune in to telephone calls as they are being transmitted by switching on their TV sets.

The risks of telephones being tapped apply in principle to teleprinter links and links between computer and data banks. "You can no longer distinguish between the networks," Herr Krause says.

The easiest calls to bug are calls from car telephones, but tuning in to radio transmissions is much more complicated than simply bugging or miking within listening distance of the telephone handset.

Main underground cables, including those that pass through the GDR, are clad in a compressed air pipeline. Any attempt to interfere would result in a fall in pressure that would trigger the alarm.

Switchgear, another point where bugging is a likely prospect, is also equipped with alarm devices.

When tapping is authorised by the police or intelligence service, the officials who monitor calls do so at telephone exchanges.

They are only allowed to do so after producing a court order, it is said. Herr Krause, pretty much like a search warrant.

Harald Kallwies (Frankfurter Neue Presse, 2 February 1981)

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Phones are easy to tap, says Bundespost engineer

None of West Germany's 28 million telephone subscribers can be completely sure their phone is not being bugged. The unwanted listener may be coincidence, a skilled private operator or even an official authorised to tap his phone.

All you can be sure of, says Jürgen Krause of the Bundespost's central telecom department in Darmstadt, is that you will never hear that telltale click. There is no way of telling.

Interest in this subject has recurred after a case in which calls between West Berlin and West Germany were bugged, tapes being made, for instance, of calls by Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Even after examining the tape cassette containing the recording of the Chancellor's conversation, the Darmstadt expert says that in principle the call could have been bugged anywhere along the line.

He does not even rule out the possibility of the conversation having been recorded directly from one or other of

the two telephones, then overlaid with interference as a red herring.

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TV documentaries on Germans own holocaust

A three-part series on the experience of Germans from Eastern Europe at the end of the Second World War, watched by between six and eight million people in West Germany, is now being shown.

It aroused strong emotions, especially among those who were forced to leave their homes in East Europe.

Many reviewers pointed out that the programme did not stress enough that the expulsion of Germans was in part retaliation for crimes committed by the Germans.

Producer Jost von Moltke said many previous documentaries had been made with this aspect of the problem.

A young woman on the panel said the way the subject was dealt with in the East Bloc press, at which scientist H.A. Jacobsen told her she was not contributing to reconciliation with the peoples of East Europe.

The argument that this reconciliation has already taken place is true but not take account of the fears which are still coming in for treatment.

A sixth former said that the programme would have been a great help if it had helped the younger generation to understand its parents better.

It had stimulated teachers to put the subject in its wider historical context.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Frankfurt, 12 February 1981)

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AGRICULTURE

Ministry report forecasts 12-per-cent decline in farm earnings this year

Though the EEC has pumped billions of deutschmarks into guaranteeing minimum prices for farm produce, farmers' income is expected to drop by about 12 per cent in the 1980/81 financial year.

The 1981 Agriculture Report shows that in the 1979/80 financial year farmers' income dropped 2 per cent, with farmers in South Germany performing slightly better than their colleagues in the north.

In 1979/80, farmers' income per working member of the family dropped 1.9 per cent.

Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl told journalists in Bonn that the main reason for this was the steep rise in energy prices. Farmers had to spend more on energy but could not push up sales enough to compensate for the extra expense.

The slowdown in the restructuring process — the number of farms dropped by 1.5 per cent only — also acted as a brake on average income.

Average production value per product rose by about 4.6 per cent, with considerable fluctuation from one product to another. However, investment outlay and depreciations exceeded this.

Though average annual income per farm worker dropped to DM 24,304 in 1980, income statistics for the past 10 years show that average income in this



Josef Ertl
(Photo: Sven Simon)

period has increased by seven per cent annually.

There were considerable discrepancies between farmers' income depending on factors such as farm size and region.

In Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria profits per farm worker rose by 8.5 and 1.3 per cent respectively, whereas the figures for Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein were declines of 16.6 and 12 per cent respectively.

This helped reduce considerably the income gap between North and South. The sharp income drop in the north was caused mainly by the poor harvest there.

As for kinds of farms and specialisation, refiners' profits shot up by 12.2 per cent per worker.

Fruit farms' income dropped an average of 4.8 per cent because of fairly poor harvests and higher costs but they still make the highest profits in absolute terms.

Though the North-South gap in farmers' incomes was reduced, the so-called intra-agricultural income disparity increased.

The 25 per cent of farms with the highest profits per family member had over seven times the income of the 25 per cent of farms with the lowest profit per family member.

Developments on farms where farmers had other jobs were the same as those on "full-time" farms.

Profits per family dropped by an average of 1.9 per cent per family member compared with the preceding year.

Extra-agricultural income also dropped, so that total income dropped by 2.3 per cent to DM 21,740 per family.

The income of farms run as a second occupation were more influenced by outside factors. They increased average overall income by 5.3 per cent to DM 32,366 per family, with DM 3,185 of this coming from agriculture.

The average increase in non-agricultural income here was 5.6 per cent, as against an increase of only 1.1 per cent in agricultural earnings.

In larger "second occupation" farms, overall income was even higher than that for comparable full-time farms.

Agriculture Ministry experts have conjured up unmitigatedly gloomy predictions for this year.

They reckon neither price nor bulk rises nor appreciable productivity increases are going to come anywhere near even compensating for the sharply accelerating rise in costs.

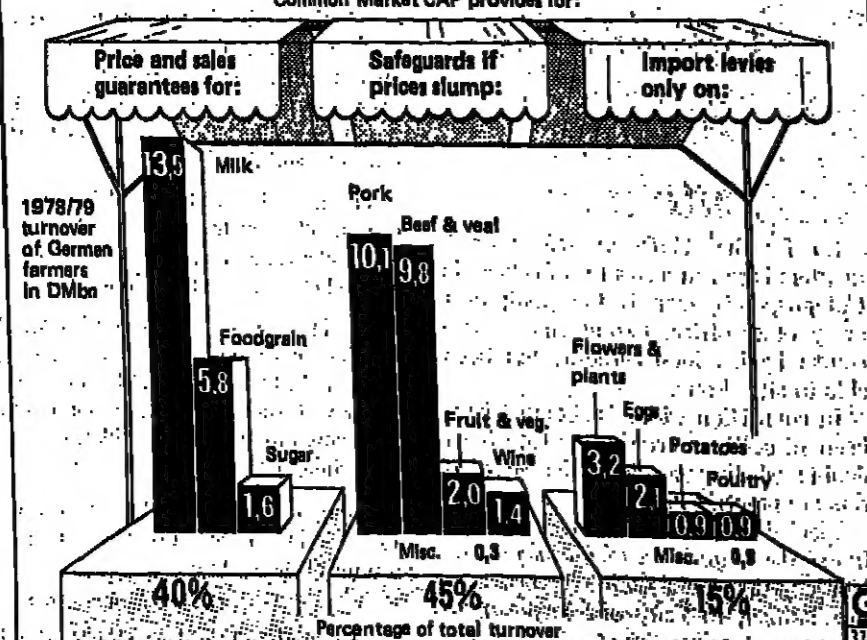
The Ministry gloom-mongers predict that incomes will drop 12 per cent this year.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 5 February 1981)

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 February 1981)

Agriculture backed by EEC farm price guarantees

Common Market CAP provides for:



The farming year ending this January did not hold forth much hope of cheer. Bonn Agriculture Ministry expects earnings to decline by 12 per cent on average, due mainly to spiralling energy prices around his space ship, to the pressure, but not at present, employment prospects elsewhere bleak. But ups and downs have been part of life down on the farm.

Strikes are not the solution

There is no doubt that last year was a bad year for German farmers. This year looks like being even worse.

According to the Agriculture Ministry for 1981, the farmers will be in the front line of those hit by the overall economic situation caused primarily by higher energy prices.

But, as Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl has rightly pointed out, these developments must be seen in the long term, especially in the agricultural industry.

This has always been true in the past, but man is a creature who tends to look into a crystal ball and see what times come.

Over the past 10 years, farmers' income has risen by an average of 1.9 per cent a year, which goes to show that the general trend is positive and that makes up for occasional setbacks.

The German National Farmers' Union sees things differently and has produced a different set of statistics, starting in 1975. This is beside the point.

The Agriculture Report shows that one farmer's family with a farm of between 30 and 50 hectares earned a net income of DM 35,333, on which it paid a tax of a mere DM 716.

This puts the drop in farmers' income into perspective, though it does not solve the present problem.

The National Farmers' Union is warning nationwide strikes this week in support of demands for higher prices, an increase in tax-free capital and reductions in other financial burdens.

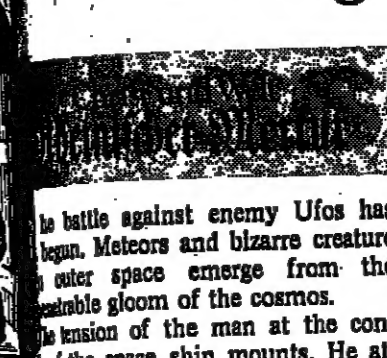
This can hardly be the answer, for when the causes are not the all economy or the energy situation, with the Common Agricultural Policy, this policy is urgently in need of reform. Otherwise it is, in the long run, going to completely collapse.

The European taxpayer, who is not necessarily even benefited by the proportionately as the present policy underlines.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 5 February 1981)

TRADE FAIRS

Slot machines galore are big business



he battle against enemy Ufos has begun. Meteors and bizarre creatures enter space emerge from the terrible gloom of the cosmos. The tension of the man at the controls of the space ship mounts. He attacks the enemy with laser beams. He has made it, now he can penetrate further into the cosmos.

But to be on the safe side, he puts a shield of energy around his space ship, to protect it from the attacks of Ufos and their satellites.

Space-Trek is the name of this modern TV game, which, it is hoped, will take in the cash for manufacturers of gaming hall owners.

Conservative estimates tell us that there are now over 80,000 juke boxes, 10,000 gaming machines in which



A game of skill at the pintable (Photo: Archiv)

money can be (but rarely is) won and 200,000 other slot-machine games: flip-pers, billiards and table football.

They are to be found in pubs, leisure centres, gaming halls, railway stations and airports.

"One can justifiably assume that the number of these automatic games rose by 10 per cent last year, with the latest and most modern generation of games, TV games and video-recorders, accounting for most of this increase.

"These electronic games have made a triumphal march through Europe having previously taken the United States and Japan by storm," says Ulrich Schulze, director of Löwen-Automaten.

Take the example of the Puckman, a charming game in which a little man is chased around a labyrinth by ghosts and is finally eaten by them.

However, the player can turn the tables and make Puckman chase the ghosts by giving him one of a maximum of four power pills.

But those damned ghosts don't give up — even after they have been eaten! Their eyes roll irresistibly back to the cage, spawning new ghosts who start chasing the hapless Puckman all over again. Finally, the four ghosts corner and "finish" off Puckman, whose power pills have by then run out. The Puckman is the brain-child of the medium-sized German automatic games manufacturers and operators, who have joined

forces in the Central Organisation of Automatic Games Entrepreneurs. This organisation has over 3,000 members.

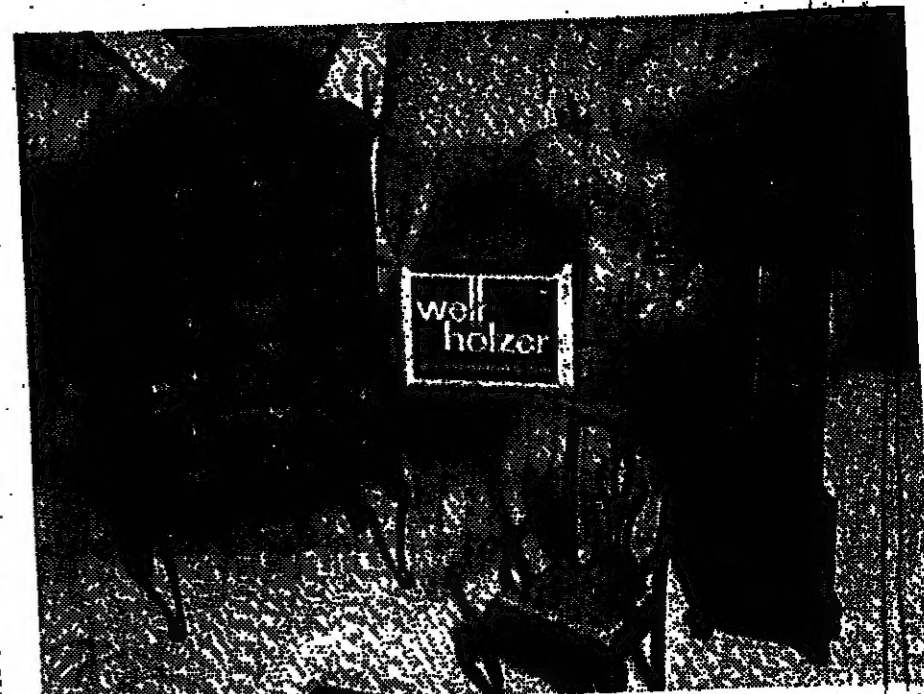
The demand for and interest in these games has risen meteorically in recent years. Statistics show that the average gaming machine entrepreneur has 160 machines in 60 places within a radius of 65km of his home.

The industry employs about 10,000 technical and sales personnel. Another 5,000 are employed in the production and sale of these machines.

Over 90 per cent of trade in games, music and entertainment machines is done by firms who are members of the German Automatic Machines Wholesale Association.

An association spokesman explains that "as our public wants constant changes, the pressure to innovate is great. Even the records in the juke boxes have to be changed very often to meet the demand for the latest hits.

"This accounts for 20 per cent of the annual single record turnover in West



Nuremberg toy fair

Bought ready-made or in do-it-yourself kits, doll's house furniture, here seen at the annual Nuremberg toy fair, is invariably enchanting. In days gone by children wanted doll's houses to look just like the real thing, so they were a keen guide to furnishing styles of their day. Nowadays period furniture is all the rage, popular with children and parents alike.

Germany. That is why juke boxes are so important for the entire record industry.

The amount invested in these machines is determined by the pressure to vary playing systems and the need to keep within hand-warming distance of the white heat of the technological revolution.

Slot machines so versatile, trade emphasises

Annual expenditure on new material to renew or extend the variety of machines including purchase of new records comes to almost DM500m. The industry's turnover last year was about DM400m.

While some automatic machine customers satisfy their urge to gamble, others use these machines to still hunger or thirst.

Whether it is morning coffee or cheese rolls, fizzy drinks or meatballs, the range of goods and services these machines provide is truly amazing.

Cigarette machines too, the league here: more than fifty per cent of all cigarettes smoked in this country are bought from machines.

These machines with their wide range of foods and objects of everyday need are not only the extended arm of the retail trade, they are also indispensable in canteens and factories where they ensure that workers can get something to eat or drink at all times of the day or night.

Considering that almost DM12bn a year is inserted into these slot machines, it is understandable that the industry is increasingly turning its attention to the use of false coins and thefts from their "defenceless" creatures.

False coins, theft and smash-and-grabs on cigarette machines alone caused at least DM24m of damage per year. And that is only the known figure. The real damage is probably far greater.

But not only coin-testing devices are being constantly developed. Developments in micro-electronics and the use of micro-processors mean machine operators can ensure the goods in the machine stay fresh and edible. Temperature gauges reduce the risk to customers to almost zero.

Lutz Dreesbach

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christiane Welt, 4 February 1981)

Musical instrument makers hold their own

would not hit export prospects. He added he was astonished at the advice given to other industries on how to cope with Japanese competition.

Even on the small instrument market, where home production rose by 23 per cent in 1978/79 and another 11 per cent in 1979/80, home sales now account for 33.6 per cent. Exports here amount to DM150m as against imports of DM289.8m.

All the major German music instrument makers, 235 in all, are of course represented in Frankfurt.

The performances by internationally renowned musicians reflected what Alfred K. Schnorr, managing director of the Messe GmbH, said was an "audible trend" — to play down the dissonances of the recession by active music-making.

The fair also made a significant break with tradition, admitting the general public on the last day.

On the contrary, Knut Grotjahn-Steinweg, chairman of the German Piano Industry Association, says that they have now beaten off the Japanese export offensive which started in the mid-60s.

Although West German wage costs are among the highest in the world, the industry managed to maintain and even improve its situation in competition against huge concerns and state-owned companies in low wage countries.

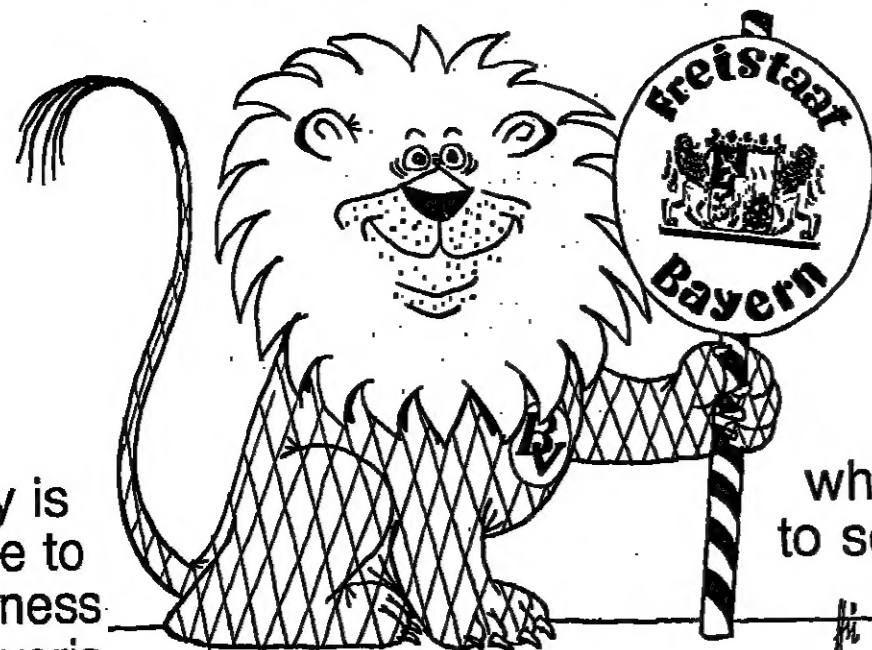
They were able to do so because of their flexibility and the high quality of their goods.

Price rises in the industry were expected to be about 8 per cent but Grotjahn-Steinweg was confident this

though they say profits are still underlining.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 February 1981)

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RESEARCH

German Antarctic exploration gains momentum as base camp is built

Two years ago, on 5 February 1979, Bonn signed the international Antarctic agreement and joined, after years of hesitation, the club of 19 countries engaged in South Pole research. Germany has since emerged as a scientific great power of the Antarctic. There has been a boom in research south of the 60th parallel. It has been as though the Germans had made good all the opportunities missed in 40 years of Antarctic absence.

Ambitious plans and substantial investment have characterised the euphoria of this fresh start to German Antarctic research.

The scientific monthly *Umschau in Wissenschaft und Technik* reckons more than 200 scientists and technicians from the Federal Republic of Germany are working down south this Antarctic summer (from December to March).

Last (European) summer Bonn also gave the go-ahead for the German Antarctic research programme and commissioned the largest and most expensive German research vessel yet, a DMI65m ship.

What is the point of this run on the South Pole? Scientists are initially concerned with readings and measurements and with unearthing fresh scientific knowledge.

Two of the five German research ves-

the ice cap and prospecting for valuable ores such as nickel or uranium.

Deposits that look like proving an economic proposition have yet to be found, but scientists are convinced the Antarctic boasts valuable commodity reserves.

There are limits to their optimism, however, inasmuch as 95 per cent of the Antarctic land-mass is buried under an ice cap up to three miles thick.

This ice is slowly moving towards the coast but remains an impenetrable obstacle to commercial mining.

In subsidising Antarctic research the Bonn government's main objective has been to gain membership of the exclusive club of 13 countries.

By the terms of the Antarctic treaty these 13 are to jointly decide the future of what is the world's fourth-largest continent.

The Antarctic is a land-mass of 14 million square kilometres, which makes it as large as Europe and the Indian sub-continent combined.

As yet it is strictly reserved for research scientists, but Bonn feels it is well worth while having a foot in the door in view of treaty changes due in 1991.

From then on commercial exploitation of the Antarctic will probably be permitted, and Germany wants to have a say from the start in the arrangements that are made.

To qualify for membership of the club Bonn has to engage in substantial Antarctic research, which accounts for the many projects included in the new Antarctic research programme.

More than 70 German projects are to be undertaken in the next few years, either from the permanent research base, from on board the new research vessel, which is due for completion next year, or from bases run by other countries.

They include work on how biological organisms adapt to extremes of climate, such as weather as dry as the Sahara and temperatures as low as -88° C.

There are plans to conduct an exact survey of the continent, to study its geological past and present and to probe the force and movement of shelf ice.

Environmental conservation readings are likewise envisaged. They include taking high-altitude atmospheric measurements, given that the air is nowhere purer than in the Antarctic.

The Antarctic is also to be probed as an influence on weather further north and scheduled to yield information needed for building ice-going ships.

In view of the political objectives that made all this scientific investment feasible Antarctic research could easily degenerate into an alibi for power politics.

As yet, however, independent basic research still stands a chance of prevailing. Take, for instance, the work of Ludolf Schultze, a scientist from Mainz.

He and US colleagues are currently scouring the Antarctic ice for meteorites. Nowhere else in the world can these messengers from outer space be more easily found, Professor Schultze writes in the scientific magazine mentioned earlier.

Stones are few and far between in the Antarctic ice, and when they do occur they are usually meteorites and in an excellent state of preservation due to the cold, dry climate.

As a result scientists can learn much more from them about the make-up of extraterrestrial matter than from meteorites found in more temperate parts of the world.

Some 5,700 of the 8,000 meteorites known to exist hail from the Antarctic. In the United States they are given as close an examination as the samples of lunar rock brought back by the Apollo astronauts.

Franz Tessensohn, a geologist who works for the Federal Geological Sciences and Raw Materials Research Institute, Hanover, outlines a further opportunity presented by Antarctic research.

He headed the Ganovex expedition, short for German North Victoria Land Expedition, a bid last year to delve into the continent's past.

About 200 million years ago the Antarctic was in the middle of Gondwanaland, the original continent. South America, Africa, Australia and the Indian sub-continent later broke off Gondwanaland and drifted into their present position, or so the theory goes.

But the expedition geologists found no trace of a geological formation that ought, if the theory is correct, to extend from Australia to the Antarctic.

At the very least, Tessensohn says, scientists will now have to reconsider whether Australia really once was where they had assumed it to have been all those years ago.

The Ganovex expedition returned with further important findings on the precursor of the Pacific. Scientists, he explains, have long wondered what used to be where the Pacific is now, given that the Pacific is a relatively recent ocean.

Basically, was it a primitive continent or a primitive ocean? The expedition returned with evidence that in the dim and distant past there was a sea at least 500km wide and 2,000km long, an ancestor of the Pacific.

Ganovex also pioneered an expedition technique, that of working mainly from on board the ship, the *Schepelsturm*, and setting up only provisional land camps. They used helicopters to fly up to 300km inland, making substantial savings in comparison with expeditions using a permanent base camp of the conventional variety.

This method also holds forth the prospect of taking a closer look at many coastal sections of the Antarctic that have hitherto been marked white on the map as far as scientific research was concerned.

Given the boom-induced euphoria, it was inevitable that part of the German Antarctic research

programme would prove a disappointment. Sad to say, difficulties have arisen in connection with the showpiece of the entire programme, the base camp that was to have been set up this Antarctic summer on the Filchner ice shelf.

First there was disagreement on the best location for the base. Many scientists said they would sooner work from on board the research vessel than from a camp site so inconveniently situated.

Geologists, for instance, would have had to fly at least 300km to the nearest rock formations.

As it happens, nature has put paid to both plans and squabbles. The pack ice is so thick that the three German ships with their cargo of men and equipment have been unable to get through to the site envisaged.

So Bonn ruled that the camp was to be established 1400km north-east in the Atka Bay, south of South Africa, instead.

The new site is 900km further away from the South Pole but geologists are much closer to their rock formations and biologists can observe marine life on their doorstep, as it were.

Ice research scientists, on the other hand, will probably be seriously inconvenienced. If they still want to carry out their Filchner ice shelf research programme they will have little choice but to set up a new camp.

This is an expensive undertaking and it will involve a fair share of danger.

The Antarctic weather is so unpredictable that even short distances can be fraught with danger, as members of the Ganovex team reported.

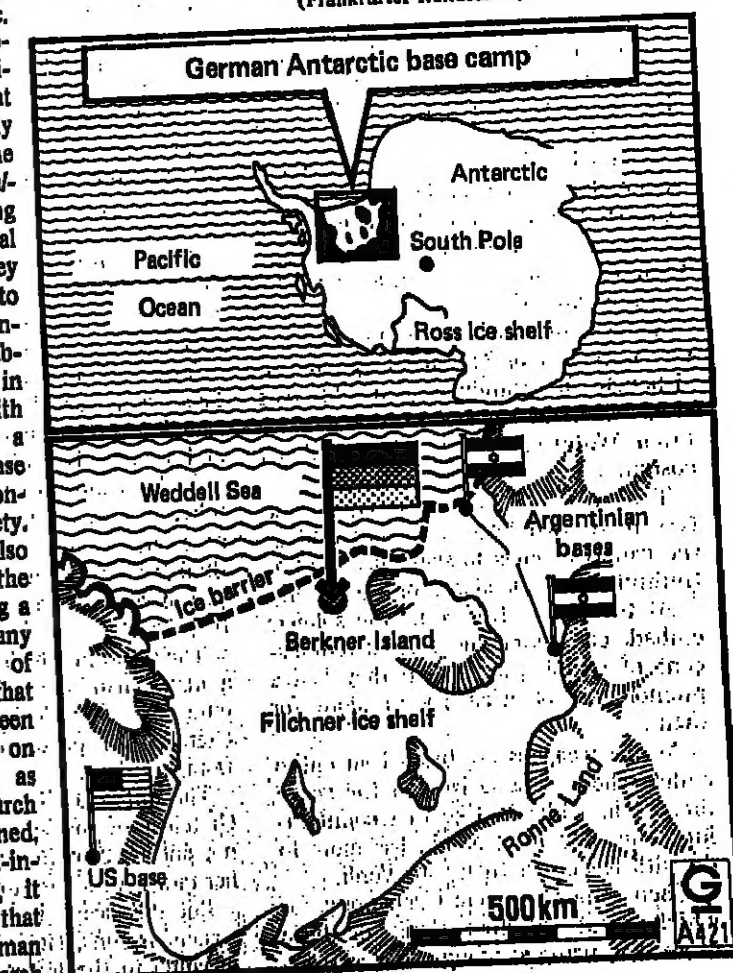
For four days, whilst a storm raged, they were forced to lie down and starve only a few yards away from comrades in a nearby tent who were also laid up but at least in a position to open emergency rations.

But they stayed where they were because any attempt to cross the few yards to the tent would have risked life and limb.

The storm had raged so fiercely that their kitchen tent with its crates and equipment had simply been blown away.

Reiner Korbmann/dpa

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 January 1981)



THE STAGE

Spellbinding
new Aida

Seldom has director Hans Neuenfels made his characters delve so deeply into the subconscious as in his controversial Frankfurt version of Verdi's *Aida*. Spectacularly, provocatively, the opera begins with Radames wielding a spade. He is evidently a student from a well-to-do family who has just woken up after a dream.

In his study he sets about digging up the parquet flooring, only to strike sand — as expected and in keeping with the Frankfurt *Sportil* slogan *Unter dem Pflaster liegt der Strand* (There is sand right under the pavement).

In the sand he promptly unearths a sword and a bust that prompts him to start singing *Celeste Aida*.

It is a controversial opening to the opera that has nothing in common with conventional versions of *Aida* yet much more to do with the work than vociferous protest from the ranks of the first-nighters might lead one to believe.

Neuenfels' *Aida* has much in common with his previous operas, Verdi's *Traviata* and *Macbeth*, Schreker's *Die Gezeichneten* and Busoni's *Doctor Faustus*.

He both illustrates the plot and conjures codes that give the lie, over and above the stage action, to the motives of the characters concerned and to Verdi's motives or the social ritual reflected in the work.

But Neuenfels would not be Neuenfels if a part were not played by his private obsessions, his dream images and visions of anger.

To do no more than register the superficially absurd but in fact alienated plot of the production is to emulate a literary critic whose view of a play on words is limited to a quest for grammatical errors.

Before departing from the framework plot Neuenfels demonstrates the inequality of the Amneris-Aida-Radames love triangle.

While Amneris appears in ladylike splendour wearing riding kit, Aida is clearly no more than a serving maid. The social gap between them is clearly apparent.

The King is no more than a senile figure. Priests obviously hold sway in Ancient Egypt, which Neuenfels sees as "desire, entreaty, longing, archaology, a kind of existential endeavour and not just a backdrop."

The ceremony of fitting out the generals is typical of Neuenfels as director, although the simultaneity of different style elements may be attributed to Erich Wonder's sets and Nina Ritt's costumes.

The bitter comedy, however, is true Neuenfels. Red flowers are arranged in the barrels of guns to symbolise the untruthfulness of the slogan of a just war.

At the end of this scene the soldiers embark on jerking movements reminiscent of cripples, as though they had a premonition of what lay in store for them.

As the weapons are blessed an entire ballet school class arrives on the scene dressed in white to take first communion. This, one must admit, has more to do with Neuenfels than with Verdi.

Then comes the victory ceremony, for which most directors think of little more than using as many extras as pos-



A scene from Neuenfels' Frankfurt *Aida* (Photo: Mara Eggert)

sible wearing as much make-up as possible and dressed as colourfully as possible, with exotic animals always a welcome extra.

Instead, Neuenfels presents a fascinating combination of cynicism, compromise and parody.

The choir sits on stage, in evening dress in opera-house boxes, enjoying the show as a demonstration of power while a ballet group acts out the basic constellation in a *Hamlet*-like play within a play.

This basic situation is, of course, Radames torn between two women.

Then, in the triumphal march, a troupe of heroes dance round the stage in a manner reminiscent of Leni Riefenstahl's treatment of the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

First-nighters at the B premiere showed more restraint than at the A premiere, but by this stage at the latest their patience was exhausted.

Applause and catcalls were so loud that one could hardly hear the pathos of the opera, which was, perhaps, no great loss.

In the march-past of the prisoners Neuenfels then switches from parody to grim unmasking. The prisoners are savages who cannot even handle plastic cups, knives and forks.

The Egyptian public finds their expected inability to handle these symbols of civilisation patronisingly, greatly amusing. If you think this point is laboured, you really ought to take a closer look at German tourists in Africa.

The Nile Act takes place in an open room again, demonstrating the longings, the dream of wide-open spaces that Neuenfels associates with the image of Egypt.

This Third Act is performed in the most conventional manner, dispensing with exaggeration in order to show keen observation of the characters.

The way in which Aida, merely by handling Amneris' cloak and draping it round herself, demonstrates her longings and her fears is a miniature masterpiece.

As for Amneris hiding in the wardrobe, is it that funny? Not as amusing as many of the audience seemed to think, surely, and more credible than the way in which he normally skulks behind the pillars.

The scene in which Amneris tries like a madwoman to set her world right is pure Neuenfels. So is more like Faust's Gretchen in prison than a despairing woman in love.

The difference between Amneris and Gretchen, of course, is that Amneris has not put her baby to death; she has killed her father, who has grown infantile.

But this scene is typical of the risk Neuenfels runs. He is so careful not to succumb to the imagery he creates and

allow the mood to last that at times he exaggerates to the point of flippancy. We see Egyptian priests transformed into Roman Catholic cardinals, which may be a valid point. But the scene deteriorates into silliness when the cardinals start ballet dancing.

Radames the digger after buried treasure only finds fulfilment in death. Together with Aida he dies of gas poisoning, giving rise to one question after another.

Has the sequence of images now drawn to a close? What do the codes mean, what do they reveal?

Works staged by Neuenfels, especially operas, are always more questionnaires than they are answer sheets. It makes them liable to attack but also lends fascination.

This riddle-like adaptation of the theatrical aspect is accompanied by a markedly transparent interpretation of the musical aspect of the opera.

Michael Glöckel of the Frankfurt Opera conducted the score in a flowing yet accentuated manner, giving the lyrical features a fragile note that put paid to any allegations of kitsch.

The first night ended with the usual clash between protest and approval, the latter prevailing narrowly. "Poor Verdi!" one member of the audience yelled, "Poor Neuenfels!" another.

"Fortunate Frankfurt" one might well have added. This is not only the most spellbinding production of *Aida* for years but also a most imaginative, exciting operatic evening.

For some it may have gone against the grain but it is sure to be the subject of more discussion than most operatic performances.

Rainer Wagner
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 February 1981)



The *Moby Dick*, where Kohout's *Play Macbeth* was staged in Bonn

Czech Macbeth
in Bonn

Performances of plays by Czech dramatist Pavel Kohout, who was exiled in Vienna, were banned by Czech authorities in the early 70s.

A number of Prague actors, formerly forbidden to work in their own country, began to adapt Macbeth.

His version of Shakespeare's play, the usurper king was designed to be performed by a 'handful of selected one-room theatres'.

Kohout's *Play Macbeth* was a number of private apartment-guests until these performances were banned.

The Bonn municipal theatre has the play its first production in Germany, in Wolfgang Swoboda's translation, staging it on board a ship at its moorings on the Rhine.

The idea of converting the *Moby Dick* into an old-style Viennese or coffee house theatre for the play the Macbeth run was intended to make the play more attractive for the Bonn audience.

Few properties are used, the impression being that of an intimate stage in the middle of a room in the public eat and drink while they watch the show.

Shakespeare's history play is acted by a number of walk-on actors in Bonn the action is handled by a public eat and drink while they watch the show.

Kohout has distilled the action to a minimum, reducing it to a psychological study of a feudal court and power and their careers.

His Macbeth, as staged in Bonn, unquestionably intended to be a production that was somewhat out of the ordinary and off the beaten theatrical track.

This intention was sadly forgotten by the play as directed by Kohout's German director Günter Pavel Fick.

The translation, by no means as compelling, was rendered on a stage in full-scale pathos more in line with a large, conventional theatre.

That was a mistake in an interesting experiment with a pint-sized play on a Rhine steamer, that is, after 20 performances in Bonn, performed in other Rhine cities.

Wolfgang Slagch-van Oort
(Nordwest-Zeitung, 19 February 1981)



Karl Dedecius (Photo: dpa)

LITERATURE

Polish studies flourish
in Darmstadt

establish normal cultural relations with West Germany.

Despite these structural difficulties, cultural interchange between the two countries 10 years after the Warsaw treaty is intense, at both unofficial and semi-official levels.

A Polish Week in West Germany, German Film and Theatre Festival in Warsaw, an exchange of graphic art exhibitions, colloquia, discussions and German-Polish school conferences have been held.

The foundation of the institute must mainly be credited to the years of effort by Karl Dedecius, who finally became its director.

Born in Lodz in 1921, Dedecius grew up in both cultures, German and the Polish. He does not feel that he is just a translator or a university lecturer in Poland.

His literary activity (60 of his own works and translations have been published) is broad-based but has tended in recent years to concentrate increasingly on outstanding modern Polish poets: Tadeusz Rozewicz, Zbigniew Herbert, Czeslaw Milosz and others.

Of course love of Polish literature alone is not enough to found and keep an expensive institute running.

Dedecius also persuaded the Bonn government, Hesse, the Rhineland-Palatinate and private backers to fund the institute. He likewise persuaded Darm-

stadt to allow the institute to use its present home rent-free.

The institute's staff, translators and university lecturers, are now building up a fine library. As this is only partly financed, they are asking the general public for donations.

However, editorial work is the linchpin of the institute's activity. Suhrkamp Verlag will soon be launching a Polish Library, chosen by 20 leading Polish scholars in the German-speaking world.

Suhrkamp will pay production, advertising and sales costs, authors' fees and editorial costs will be borne by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

This year and next year Suhrkamp will publishing editions of the work of the three Polish Nobel Prize winners Sienkiewicz, Reymont and Milosz and works by Mickiewicz, Korczak and Rozewicz.

The institute's second major project is an exhaustive anthology with details of authors and bilingual references to literary sources.

This five-volume "Handbook of Contemporary Polish Literature" is being financed by the Volkswagen Foundation.

The Polish authorities look with favour on the work of the institute, if only because its honorary president is Marlon Griffin Dönhoff. Karl Dedecius' work is also published and highly thought of in Poland.

At the end of November the Warsaw

daily *Polityka* published an interview with him which had been conducted in June 1979, just before the institute was founded.

That the publication took so long can certainly be attributed to the work of the Polish censors in this period.

Karl Dedecius does not consider this especially important. He says he wants the institute to be as independent as possible from changes in the overall political climate between the two countries.

Dedecius said that one of the tragedies of German history is that we never knew enough about the Slavs. This, he says, has got to change.

This is the underlying philosophy of the institute. This, and its founder's passion for Polish literature, which he has been translating brilliantly into German for the past 20 years! Werner Paul
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 February 1981)

Academy
awards

The German Academy of Language and Literature has awarded the Johann Heinrich Voss Translation Prize to Slavist Wolfgang Kasack and the Friedrich Gundolf Prize for German Studies abroad to Briton Leonard W. Forster. Both prizes are worth DM10,000.

Wolfgang Kasack, 53, is an expert and active supporter of Russian literature in Germany. He is Professor of Slavonic Literature at the University of Cologne.

Leonard Forster of Cambridge University is one of Britain's leading German scholars. His speciality is German literature of the Renaissance and the Baroque.

(Allgemeine Zeitung, 4 February 1981)

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HEALTH

New rheumatism drug may halt the progress of tissue decay, specialists claim

A new anti-rheumatism drug recently authorised for sale by the Federal Health Office, West Berlin, is said to be more compatible than its competitors and at least as effective in alleviating the symptoms of inflamed rheumatism.

Its main recommendation, though, is that it halts the continuing inflammation process. Does this mean a breakthrough in the treatment of rheumatism?

At a recent conference in Hamburg some of the scientists and doctors involved in the development and clinical testing of this new drug, benoxaprofen, marketed as Coxigon, were interviewed.

The drug is marketed by Eli Lilly, a US company with a very strong research department.

Rheumatism is rated the most expensive illness in the world. It is practically incurable. Sufferers become increasingly restricted in their movements as they grow older. Many become completely incapacitated.

There are a good ten million rheumatism sufferers in West Germany, three million of whom receive regular medical treatment.

The costs of this treatment amount to DM7bn per annum. Absence from work and premature invalidity through rheumatism cost the economy about DM30bn per annum.

Minister raps cadmium risk

North Rhine-Westphalian Health and Labour Minister Friedhelm Farthmann (SPD) says industry plays down the health risk of cadmium.

If his appeals and those of other Ministers proved fruitless, they would have to consider a ban on the use of both cadmium and lead.

He said that last April, on behalf of the Conference of Ministers of the Environment, he had called on industry to stop using heavy metals such as lead and cadmium.

They were to develop production processes in which the use of such environmentally dangerous substances would be unnecessary.

Farthmann said: "Unfortunately I now see that this appeal has obviously had no effect. Industry has still not made clear what measures it intends to take to reduce the use of cadmium and other heavy metals."

The Minister made this statement in reply to the Confederation of German Industry, which had played down the harmful effects of cadmium.

It published a statement saying that the official statistics of the insurance companies showed that only four people had suffered from cadmium poisoning since 1969.

Herr Farthmann said that statements like these simply ignored the essential problem and distracted from it in an unacceptable manner.

The issue was not the effects of cadmium at the place of work but the high cadmium contents in the soil near large industrial plants.

As heavy metals could not be broken down biologically, these concentrations must finally lead to unacceptable concentrations of heavy metals, he said.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 February 1981)

matism cost the economy about DM30bn per annum.

Karl Chlud of the rheumatism department at Kaiser Franz Joseph Hospital, Vienna, summarised methods of rheumatism treatment to date.

He said doctors had concentrated on treating inflammatory forms of rheumatism such as chronic polyarthritis of the joints and in doing their best to help their patients to regain as much mobility as possible.

Nature cures, diets and physical therapies such as bathing also played an important part until a few years ago, when the era of anti-rheumatism drugs began.

Even these drugs have up to now only been able to combat the symptoms of patients with inflammatory forms of rheumatism. The disease continues to progress inexorably, though in some cases somewhat more slowly.

Drug-based rheumatism therapy had two severe disadvantages for the patient. First in many cases the drugs become less effective the longer the patient takes them, and the painful symptoms return.

Second, they have more or less unpleasant side-effects. The side-effects of cortisone for example, are notorious. Because of these effects, prescription of cortisone is avoided wherever possible in rheumatism therapy today.

In the past few years, the trend has been towards using non-steroid drugs. But some patients find even these hard to take over long periods because they can cause stomach pains, ulcers and intestinal bleeding.

This wearing-off of the effect and increase in side-effects means that many patients ask their doctors to prescribe fresh drugs.

This partly explains the large number of similar anti-rheumatism products on the pharmaceutical market.

Dr Chlud said that it could be regarded as a therapeutic step forward if patients did not switch from one drug to

another in the first two years of treatment.

He said he started using a new drug at his clinic three years ago. Of a total of thirty patients, 18 were still taking it over a year later. Of them, over ninety per cent are still taking it. This was an unusually high success rate.

Professor D. A. Willoughby of London University department of experimental pathology said the reason for the better compatibility of this new drug was its slight prostaglandin inhibition, even though it was a non-steroid drug.

The side-effects of this drug are occasional itching and burning of the skin. Sometimes, patients' fingernails also come loose from the bed of the nail, but these complaints are insignificant in view of the excellent therapeutic results.

The real breakthrough only comes, however, when the drugs start coming to grips with the causes rather than just the symptoms of the process of inflammation.

Drug development in this area has been held back because no-one really knew what caused this chronic inflammation.

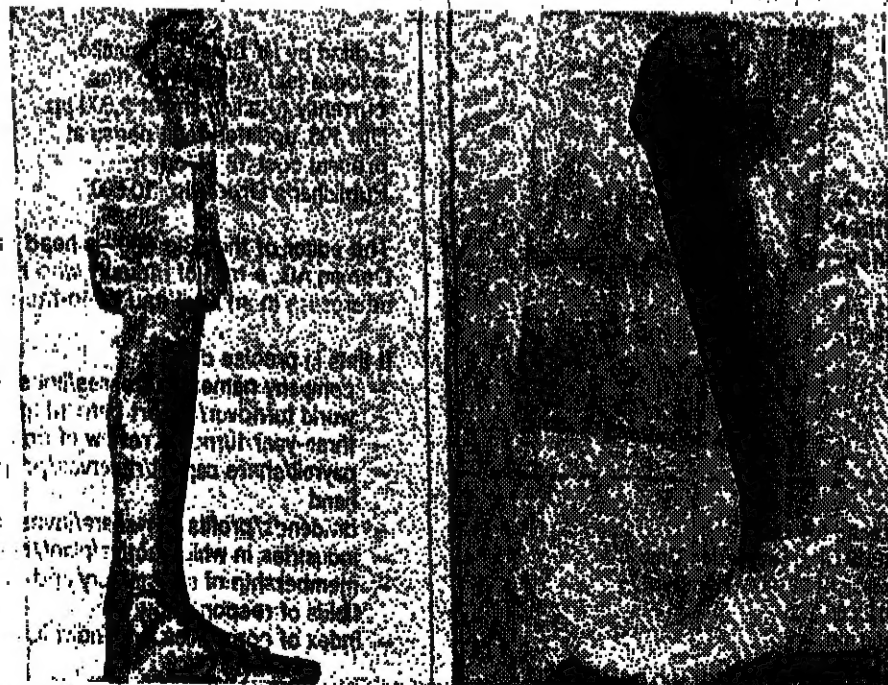
Professor Ernst-Martin Lemmel of the rheumatological and immunological department of Mainz University said there were indications of defence mechanisms against body and foreign tissue, but not enough clear-cut evidence to prove an immune response.

Professor Lemmel is one of the leading figures in research into the causes of rheumatism. His theory is that the chronic inflammation process characteristic of rheumatism is the result of a regulatory disorder involving monocytes.

Monocytes, cells circulating in the blood, homed in on areas of tissue damage. Their function was to heal, but they also released tissue-destroying enzymes.

Damage to the tissue increased and a chain reaction brought in other defensive substances, such as lymph cells.

Continued on page 14



From peg leg to artificial limb

The Prince of Homburg's celebrated peg leg (left) is more than 300 years old. It can still be seen in the family castle near Frankfurt. A modern artificial limb (right) uses less padding and more comfortable materials designed for comfort and a perfect fit. And you don't have to be a prince to afford the latest in artificial aids of this kind, as a million West German amputees prove.

(Photo: Center Press)

Doctor and patient fail to connect

says Tübingen

Tübingen specialist Professor Erhard Bock warned doctors that lack of communication between doctors and patients was a problem.

He said that if it did not change there would be a serious change in the relationship between the two.

Doctors' willingness to talk to patients had sunk alarmingly. General practitioners simply diagnosed and prescribed the appropriate medicines.

This impersonal approach was more apparent in hospitals, where communication between doctors and patients had real rarity value.

He was speaking at the Propädeutische In-Service Training in Medicine in Cologne. The emphasis is on courses for doctors who run their own practices.

He told the 500 or so doctors in the forum that doctors not only talk infrequently with their patients when they did so what they said was technical and not human enough.

These talks, if conducted properly, could, in 60 to 90 per cent of cases, achieve a correct diagnosis even if the examination proper had begun.

"They should underline the role of the patient as a co-partner in his own health. They should break down barriers of fear, inhibitions and lack of sympathy and empathy are essential."

The subject and the content of the talks should be geared towards the patient's needs. And the talk should not be too short.

Everything depended on the question technique. The doctor should not ask about when the patient's father or grandfather died but concentrate on the patient himself, what his complaints were, why he came to the surgery and what the doctor was.

The genuinely sick person or hypochondriac are usually guided by conversation or discussion with the doctor and they should be given the opportunity to have one.

Professor Bock stressed however that the doctor's own attitude towards health.

Doctors, he said, should practice what they preach. His thesis did not go uncontradicted. Professor Otto Lippert of Dortmund, chairman of the German Medical Training Senate, tried to give Bock's attack, saying it could be to doctors in hospitals but not in private practice.

And, of course, it was pointed out that the fees paid for merely talking to patients were too small. Professor Bock also got support from official quarters.

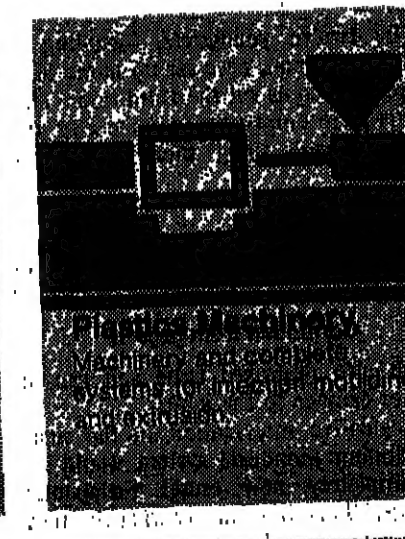
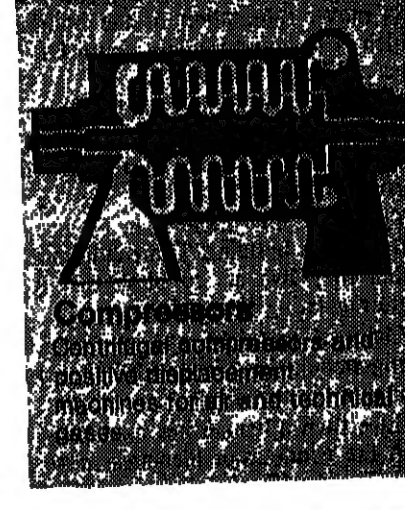
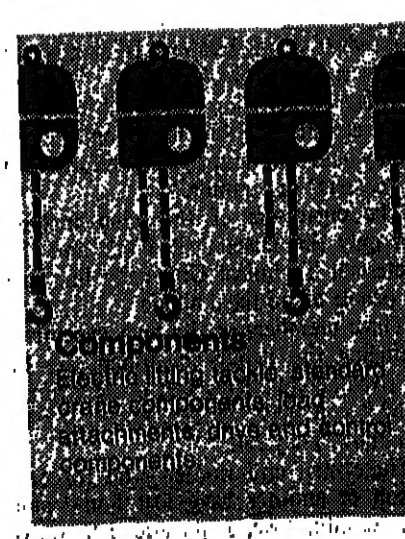
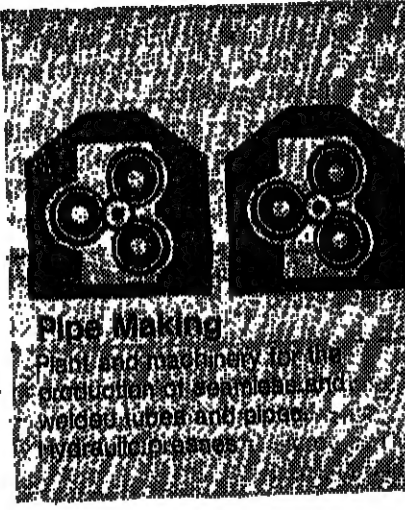
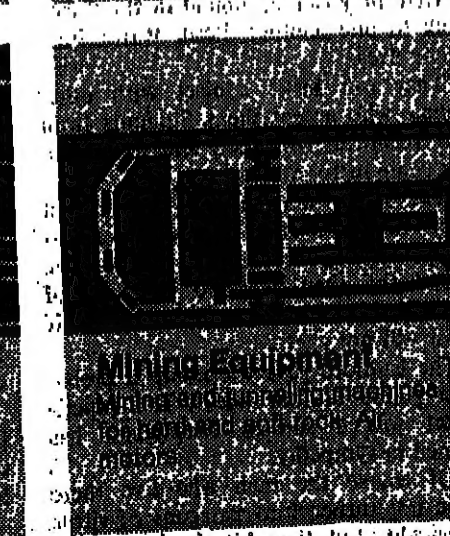
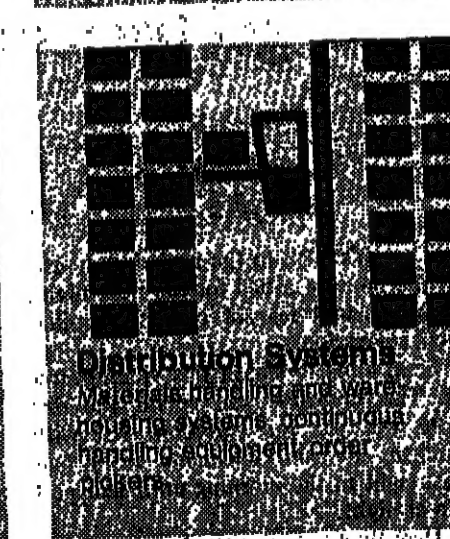
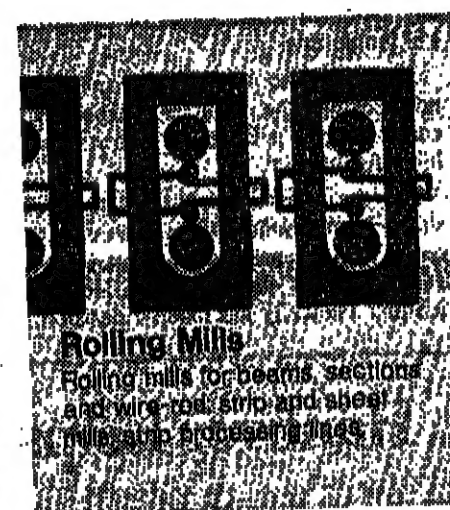
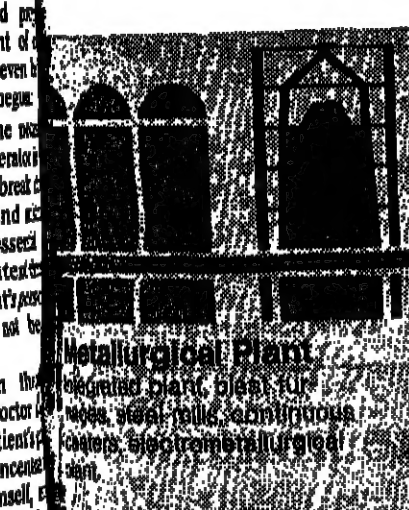
Professor Hanns-Peter Wittenberg, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council of the German Association, mentioned the unreliability of many patients and what the doctor ordered and prescribed medicines.

This phenomenon, known as compliance, occurred in many cases because doctors had not taken the time and trouble to explain things to the patient.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 January 1981)

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MODERN LIVING

Stuttgart squatters help themselves, upsetting the authorities

There is often a depressing familiarity about the careers of dossers: deprived home background, marital bust-up and divorce, illness, loss of work, the inexorable lurch towards Skid Row.

The number of homeless in West Germany is increasing every year, as is society's inability to cope with them.

The attitude of officialdom is highly ambivalent, as Stuttgart shows. Here, the homeless resorted to a method normally associated with students and other young people: squatting.

The first dossers' squat was in Christophstrasse 25, a building until recently the home of the Württemberg Biblical Institute.

When it was vacated, the city authorities turned it into temporary accommodation for the homeless. Originally it was planned to accommodate 80 people, but soon 220 were crowding into it.

On 8 January, the occupants of 25 had had enough and moved next door into 25a, which has been unoccupied for some weeks.

Mayor Manfred Rommel and the city authorities showed some sympathy for this move. Renovation of the building, which is to house the city Youth Office, does not begin until April.

They city authorities provided camp beds and blankets and free hot meals at the weekends. They are also paying the heating bills.

There are now more than 80 people living in the building. The conditions in which they live are so bleak that it is more vegetating than living.

About a fortnight ago, a group of young people in 25a decided they had enough and moved into the next house.

Since then a banner has been hanging from the windows of Bismarckstrasse 57 in Stuttgart with the slogan: "It's better to squat than to freeze and rot."

The twelve youngsters, including a pregnant woman, have set up home in a couple of rooms on the third floor. The rooms were empty because the city authorities were using them for emer-

gencies, for families who had to evacuate their homes in the event of fire, storms or some other disaster.

This was too much for the Stuttgart authorities, who have decided to make an example of this group of squatters.

The main argument for taking tough measures against this group is that the whole thing could snowball: the more Stuttgart does for the homeless, the more outsiders could be attracted to the city as a result.

Manfred Gann, director of the Stuttgart Housing Office, complains that there are already ten new dossers a day homing in in holy hope of a home in Stuttgart.

Gann and local social security office director Dieter Rilling personally brought the squatters a notice to quit the building after previously spending two and a half hours trying to persuade them to move out of their own accord.

They still did not budge. The next move will be forcible eviction by the police.

Hundreds of other homeless from all over Stuttgart have promised support, so that the eviction, when it happens, could meet with stiff resistance.

If the dossers are evicted, they are determined to move in somewhere else. Does this mean escalation is inevitable?

Rilling and Gann say the city authorities and local councils have together made available over 500 places for these people to stay.

They also point out that there are over 4,500 Stuttgart people on the emergency housing register and that these people must have priority.

Rilling says it would be fairer if the homeless made their protests in towns and cities which are less liberal in their treatment of the homeless than Stuttgart.

The homeless people's spokesman said that talk by the city authorities about "satisfaction" among the homeless in the former Bible Institute was an exaggeration:

"They are only satisfied because they are exhausted by the system of circulation. What happens is someone gives you a warm sandwich, a ticket and the advice to go back where you came from."

The city authorities have a suspicion that the squatters have other aims in mind. Asked to specify what these further aims are, they hint darkly at something political.

They are determined not to tolerate any action in which chaos or the law of the jungle rule.

There is also talk of the individual not having the right to expect the community as a whole to take responsibility for his fate.

The homeless people in Bismarckstrasse have promised the move out of the rooms if they are needed in an emergency, but the city authorities are unrelenting. They city has made a decision, a

political decision, not to give in to the unwelcome guests.

The demanding attitude of the homeless is loud and disagreeably clear. This scrutiny made them feel less of battle they are inclined to stand a chance at the Euro-championships.

They ended winning the silver medal, but it was the best performance by a German couple on the ice for 14 years.

And they have little faith in the ability to help them, imagining, unbureaucratically, to find accommodation. In this respect they are right.

Willy Knapp, one of the homeless said that in six weeks they had 136 unoccupied flats, most of them owned by the city.

Knapp, a heating engineer, was an ed leader of the squatters in Bismarckstrasse some weeks ago. He kept people under tight control. There been no trouble at all in his place, he took over, whereas the police and out all day next door.

Fifteen of his 80 people have left others go along to local jobs every day asking if there are any going.

But for the majority, frustration alcohol rule. A white-haired man on second floor told me: "We'd have drunk, wouldn't we, or we wouldn't be able to stand it."

Rilling predicts that more and more people are going to fall through the work of the West German social security system.

Many of these people simply cope, and stern appeals to them by their own two feet are utterly useless.

In many cases, society does not provide what is necessary to help avoid the worst.

Peter Schramm, a 20-year-old student

at Oberdorf, won bronze at the German ice skating championships in Innsbruck, Austria, with a dazzling free performance that seemed to mark the start of a truly great career.

scouts followed every move on the Innsbruck ice by West German skaters Christina Riegel and Andreas Nischwitz. This scrutiny made them feel less of battle they are inclined to stand a chance at the Euro-championships.

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SPORT

Stuttgart pair win Innsbruck silver

witz was heading for trouble with Susanne Schelbe, who was his partner three years ago.

He coached Tina for a potential partner and soon had a promising youngster to skate with Nischwitz.

"I don't bother myself with prospects that are limited from the start," Fajfr says, recollecting that Nischwitz and Riegel began as a combination far from unusual in skating.

He was a man while she was still a child, albeit an extremely talented one. But she has gone from strength to strength and has still to reach her peak.

"She is completely sure of herself, although she is not yet his equal for repertoire," the coach says. She gives her partner confidence too.

She derives part of her power on the ice from vanity, her effect on the audience. She is not in the least interested in the competition.

She firmly believes in herself and her future on ice. She still goes to school and the others are more interested in seeing her pass school-leaving exams than she is.

"Independence is our forte," says Fajfr. "If Andreas were to retire today he would qualify as a dentist; if he carries on skating for a couple of years he will still do so."

Fajfr is determined to retain his independence too, although at present skating, premarriage.

He is an architect by profession and works for a housing corporation in Stuttgart, but in the evening he often doesn't leave the rink until late.

So his is a 16-hour day and he frequently has to make do with three or four hours' sleep.

But he is adamant that skating is not going to be his career. He feels it is extremely important to remain independent of officialdom and be able to criticise officials when the need arises.

"Ideally, as opposed to materially, much is at stake," he says. "But ice skating must not be allowed to become all-important in life."

This attitude helps his pair to take it easy, although there can be no denying that he is nervous on the day, smoking twice as many cigarettes as normal.

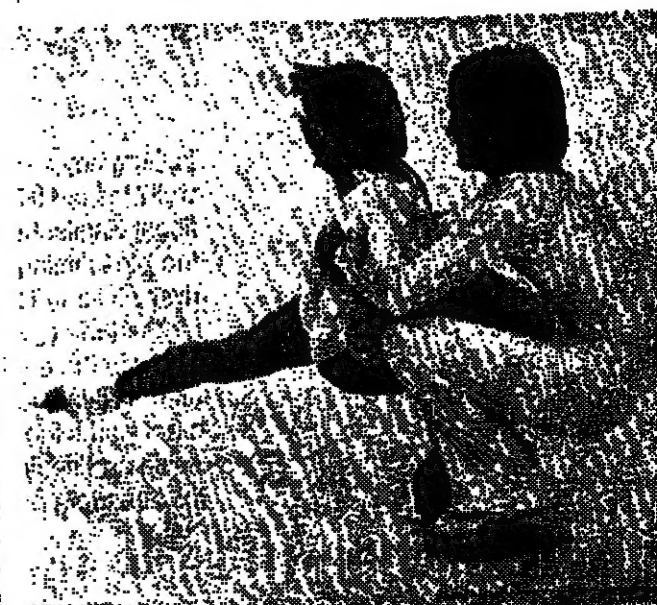
Under his guidance Andreas Nischwitz has matured as a personality and a sportsman who practises sport for its own sake and does not cling to it or regard it as the be-all and end-all of his life.

Tina Riegel is still an uncomplicated girl who was not unduly upset to discover that her kitbag with the silver medal in it had been lost (she left it on the bus).

When it was returned by the police all she said was: "Oh look, the medal's still there." In Stuttgart ice skating is still very much down to earth, it seems.

Promising youngsters Andreas Nischwitz and Tina Riegel have retained a healthy sense of proportion.

Christiane Moravetz
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 February 1981)



Tina Riegel and Andreas Nischwitz

(Photo: West)

Sindelfingen record spree

When the last victory ceremony was over at the 28th German indoor athletics championships in Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart, both the athletes and a capacity crowd of 4,500 breathed a sigh of happy relief. One world record and 14 West German records were set up at Sindelfingen. It was the best day in the history of the championships.

Never have the Olympics been such a distant prospect as at present. West German athletes last competed at Montreal and the next Games are not for another three years. Who knows what will have happened by then!

Small wonder that sports officials were worried whether the Olympic spirit would last the distance.

It is widely felt that the Olympic spirit, whatever one takes it to mean, must be constantly fostered to ensure that medals are won and standards are not allowed to slip.

Yet last season West German athletes, unable to compete at Moscow on account of the Olympic boycott, were anything but full of the Olympic spirit.

They were sick and tired of the whole business and future prospects looked none too good. But the Sindelfingen indoor championships have amply proved that such fears were unfounded.

Never have amateur athletics championships been so superb, even though none of the athletes had any particular incentive to provide an outstanding performance.

Most were planning to peak in time for other competitions. The next Olympics are years away, so they had no need to worry about failing to deliver Olympic qualifying times and distances.

Yet the records and personal best performances set up at Sindelfingen were an impressive demonstration of talent.

Maybe the athletes did so well because they were not under pressure to deliver the goods, of course. Sindelfingen could well be argued to be the result of a general relaxation of tension.

Maybe it would be better to make athletes feel they are not personally responsible for maintaining their country's Olympic prestige. Maybe they would not then constantly be afraid of proving a failure.

It is only an idea, of course. Athletes have muscles, tendons and nerves. They can be kept in trim. But there is no way of tuning what goes on in their minds.

So all that can be done is probably to prepare for the next Olympics in a cooler, calmer and much more relaxed manner.

Ludwig Dietrich
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 February 1981)

Hanover helps the homeless get back on their feet



Then it's back to the next doss house, in the hope of a bed for the next night, with constant fear of checks, humiliation, aggression.

Sewo aims to smash this vicious circle. The homeless can spend the day here, can use the two-room flat with kitchen, TV and telephone from half past eight in the morning until half past ten at night.

Here they can sit around in the warm. Talk to one another. Read. Write. Find themselves.

They can make contact with other people who accept them. Students from the Technical University and local people come in for a chat.

The locals were hostile at first but they are now tolerant and even well-disposed towards the scheme. They have found the men at Sewo helpful and friendly. They clear snow, give a push if a car will not start.

The landlord gave the group a probation period of four weeks. The experiment was a success. Skepticism has turned to sympathy.

Of course the men who live there have not turned into paragons of virtue overnight. But they hit the bottle less

often than before. Since the place opened there has been an apparent drop in their alcohol consumption.

They have found it better to be less. After all, there are frequently no phone calls to be dealt with. domestic matters to be dealt with.

The Technical University's first experiment puts it in perspective. "Drunkness is no longer a feature of behaviour patterns in communities with third parties."

Is Sewo a "way back into society"? Herbert Kubis, Professor at Hanover Protestant University, warns against

slippery slopes. The probationary return to society combined with total support from past friends was fraught, he says, with fears and many problems.

He would not really be accepting the key ways. He runs as straight as a die, less if we insisted at all costs on being our life styles, which were often a cause of their problem in the place.

The aim was to set up similar centres or, eventually, a house for the homeless and to reintroduce them gradually into society.

He describes the aim of Sewo in terms which are sober and realistic. "Poverty is a social problem, not a human beings."

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 1 February 1981)

Hartmut Weber world's best over 400m

European championship title for juniors in a superb 400 metres time of 45.77 seconds.

Later that season he also ran third in the 4x400 metres relay at the European Cup competition in Turin. He handed over the baton to Schmid, who went on to win his third gold medal.

The day before, Schmid had won both the 400 metres sprint and the 400 metres hurdles. What was more, he did so within the space of an hour.

This year the European Cup competition is to be held in Zagreb, but Weber says the authorities would do better not to repeat the 1979 experiment. This time he aims to be the No. 1.

One reason why West Germany has always fielded such fine 400 metre specialists is surely that there always seems to have been a challenger to keep established stars on their toes.

By next year at the latest Hartmut Weber wants to establish himself as one of the all-time greats in the 400 metres hurdles.

He reckons he has overcome his dislike of the 10 hurdles since he fell and broke an arm over the distance at the 1977 national youth championships.

That too was in Sindelfingen, only a



Hartmut Weber

(Photo: Schirmer)

miles and a half from the indoor arena where he set up his new world record.

He is currently a conscript serving in the Bundeswehr sports company at Warendorf, Westphalia, until next autumn. Until then he will be able to lay the groundwork for his sporting future by putting in eight to ten training sessions a week.

Later he hopes to put this groundwork to good use when he competes with US world record-holder Ed Moses and his local rival Harald Schmid. He can afford to wait. He still has time.

Robert Hartmann
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 February 1981)

Rheumatism drug

Continued from page 12

which also destroyed tissue and caused further damage to the joint:

"Regulative intervention in the malfunctioning monocyte system would be a completely new causal therapeutic process." This, it seems, is what the new anti-rheumatism drug does.

Dr Dawson, director of the Lilly Research Centre in Windlesham, England, where the substance was discovered in 1971, explained that it was the only non-hormonal drug to stop or reduce the movement of monocytes in the body.

Professor Lemmel said it could break the vicious circle of continuing rheumatic destruction of tissue. There were many indications that this was actually the case, as Chlud and Shedd said.

However, the drug has not been in use long enough for long-term comparisons of patients' X-rays. Research into this is now going on throughout the world.

Dieter Dietrich
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 January 1981)